

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 208101
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 208101

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: ETRD, JA

SUBJECT:NAKAGAWA'S SEPTEMBER VISIT

1. MAFF MINISTER NAKAGAWA'S VISIT PRESENTS THE POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY FOR SIGNIFICANT BREAKTHROUGH IN THE AGRICULTURAL COMPONENT OF THE MTN, AS WELL AS POSSIBLE SIGNIFICANT RISK TO THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP IF HE COMES EMPTY-HANDED OR WITH MINOR CONCESSIONS. AFTER THE RECENT LENGTHY SEQUENCE OF JAPANESE VISITORS DISCUSSING THE CITRUS AND BEEF PROBLEM, AND THE SPECIAL BUILDUP BY MR. HIGAKI LAST WEEK, A VISIT BY MINISTER NAKAGAWA WITHOUT TANGIBLE RESULTS WOULD ELICIT VERY SHARP REACTIONS FROM THE CONGRESS AND THE US INDUSTRY.

2. THE FIRST PART OF YOUR SPEECH TO THE OSAKA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ON APRIL 4 OUTLINES THE ISSUES VERY EFFECTIVELY. THE US REQUESTS ON CITRUS AND BEEF ARE EXCEEDINGLY MODEST
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COMPARED TO JAPANESE DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION AND TAKE INTO ACCOUNT JAPANESE CITRUS SEASON. AT YOUR DINNER ON 8/18, YOU MAY WISH TO RE-EMPHASIZE TO MINISTER NAKAGAWA THE STRONG POLITICAL AND SYMBOLIC OVERTONES OF HIS VISIT. AN UNSUCCESSFUL VISIT AT THIS TIME, WITH CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS COMING UP IN NOVEMBER, WOULD HAVE SEVERE REPERCUSSIONS ACROSS THE BOARD, NOT JUST WITH THE MTN.

3. WE RECOGNIZE POLITICAL SENSITIVITY OF ISSUES FOR JAPAN, BUT WE BOTH MUST TAKE BOLD, SOMETIMES POLITICALLY DIFFICULT STEPS, TO MAKE MTN A SUCCESS. WE WILL BE TAKING SUCH STEPS OURSELVES.

4. OUTCOME OF VISIT THUS DEPENDENT ON NAKAGAWA BRINGING SIGNIFICANT OFFERS, NOT JUST IN CITRUS AND BEEF, BUT ALSO IN OTHER PRODUCTS. (NAKAGAWA AND HIS TEAM NEED NOT LIMIT THEMSELVES TO MTN ISSUES. THERE ARE MANY NAGGING PROBLEMS IN US-JAPAN AGRICULTURAL TRADE, SUCH AS DEFINITION OF BEEF SKIRTS, WHERE WE COULD USE SOME HELP. PROGRESS ON THESE ISSUES WOULD CERTAINLY HELP ATMOSPHERE DURING VISIT.)

5. WE BELIEVE THAT THE ADVANCE JAPANESE VISITORS HAVE CARRIED THIS MESSAGE BACK TO MAFF. IT WOULD BE ESPECIALLY EFFECTIVE IF THIS MESSAGE WERE TO BE GIVEN PERSONALLY BY YOU TO MINISTER NAKAGAWA.

CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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